



Clifton Town Meeting, 7pm, March 6 2017

Trustees Present: Adam Balz, Christine Celsor, Ashley Fritz, Nicholas Hollan, Rama Kasturi, Seth Maney, Kevin Marsh, Shaun McCance, Malcolm Montgomery, Michael Moran, Cindy Oakenfull, Joyce Rich, Eric Urbas

Trustees Absent: Peter Block, Brad Hawse

Regular Reports:

Recreation Center: Tom Reece detailed the Office of the Mayor Youth 2 Work program. Teens are encouraged to apply for summer employment positions with the city of Cincinnati. Flyers are available at the front desk of the Clifton CRC. March 27 is the application deadline. There are still spots available for Clifton CRC Summer Camp

Fire Department: Captain Caldwell said to set clocks forward this weekend. He encouraged using the time change as an opportunity to check smoke detectors. Batteries in smoke detectors should be changed out twice a year. Captain Caldwell reminded everyone to make sure you have an exit plan in case of a fire.

Last month Narcan was administered 5 times in our neighborhood.

Careless use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes have been the cause of many fires in our neighborhood.

Police: Officer Hageman reported we are experiencing a small increase of crime with the warm weather. Theft from cars has increased. Heroin is still a problem, but undercover police have been making arrests.

CCAC: Leslie Mooney stated the spring classes will be online this week. About 70 classes will be offered. Their full list of programming is available at cliftonculturalarts.org

CBPA: Adam Hyland reported an offer to buy CPBA lot is being reviewed now. They are seeking feedback from business owners regarding the proposed sale.

Clifton Market: Adam Hyland thanked everyone for their patronage. They have added a lot of amenities in the store, and are looking forward to adding more amenities. Adam is hopeful that the loan from CTM can move forward. They will be refinishing the parking lot soon.

Vice Mayor Mann: Vice Mayor Mann thanked CTM for giving him an opportunity to speak. He encouraged everyone to attend the Neighborhood Summit on Saturday, March 10, saying it is a great opportunity for community engagement. He is concerned about Walnut Hills becoming a food desert with the closing of the Walnut Hills Kroger location, and brought up Clifton as an example of the neighborhood moving in the other direction by making Clifton Market happen. Mr. Mann's focus is on achieving better equity. The recently installed large utility boxes in Clifton were put in by Spectrum, and they don't plan to put in any more for the time being. He would like to determine if it's possible to regulate the boxes, insofar as their numbers and

appearance. Mr. Mann announced that a traffic light will be installed by the library and Burnett Woods at the intersection of Jefferson and Brookline. A traffic light proposal at Morrison and Ludlow was not accepted. Whitfield and Terrace were also denied a request for a stop sign. The city is still deciding whether or not a traffic light should be installed on Central Parkway in front of Christo Del Ray High School. There have been many complaints about the north bound ramp onto Interstate 75 from Mitchell Avenue. Mr. Mann says the ramp is too short and needs to be made safe. Other traffic safety issues Mr. Mann is concerned about are motorists not yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks and stopping at red traffic signals. We need to have safer conditions for pedestrians.

Malcolm Montgomery asked the Vice Mayor if the utility boxes can be addressed (Spectrum) to be more aesthetic because the boxes don't blend in well with the neighborhood. Mr Mann said this is something the city can look into. An audience member asked about a shuttle service being offered for Walnut Hills residents to a neighboring Kroger. Mr. Mann said current Walnut Hills residents seeking this service need to sign up for the once a week shuttle service, spend at least \$20 at the store, and be over the age of 50. Some efforts are being made to help the people of Walnut Hills get transportation to a grocery store, including free bus tokens.

Cincinnati Police Department's Karen Rumsey on CCROW: A representative was sent to fill in for Ms. Rumsey. CCROW is Cincinnati Citizens Respect Our Witness Program. The Police Department has hired licensed social workers to assist in crisis situations. Not having witnesses come forward due to fear, led the Police to develop CCROW. The police and social workers work with witnesses and their families to provide support to those who have come forward with information. Services include faster police response to witness's homes through use of an alarm, counseling, and accompaniment to court related meeting. This program relies on volunteers to sit with witnesses in court and to call them to check up on them. Business owners can bring witnesses lunch. There are many opportunities for community members to help out. Since CCROW's inception, it has had good success with convictions. For more information, visit their website at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/police/ccrow.

City Council member PG Sittenfeld on Golden Cincinnati Initiative: Mr. Sittenfeld is finishing out his second term. He has been involved with CCAC and Clifton Market. He has been working on the Golden Cincinnati Initiative, which addresses senior citizens' concerns with traffic. Some of their concerns are having sufficient time to cross roads at crosswalks and understanding how the new parking meters operate. Mr. Sittenfeld is developing some thoughtful ways to help seniors with these issues. One of these would be having two buttons on crosswalks, in which one would allow for more time to cross. A new position with the City has been developed to address issues senior citizens are facing. They are interviewing final candidates for the position now. A recent pedestrian safety meeting was held to identify the City's most dangerous intersections. Kevin Marsh was also at the meeting and he is encouraged that city council will provide solutions for this issue. Mr. Sittenfeld says Clifton's advocacy will be needed at some point as the City moves forward addressing pedestrian safety. Enforcement is difficult because the police already have many other responsibilities. He will keep us posted on how the Golden Cincinnati Initiative is progressing.

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve minutes carries.

Treasurer's Report: Balance of assets is ~\$79,000, with about \$400 net revenue for February. Motion to accept the treasurer's report passes.

CCAC Building Update: Leslie Mooney discussed the CPS meeting held on February 7 at the Clifton Recreation Center. It was announced there will be a new school serving Clifton, CUF,

and Spring Grove Village at Vine St.'s Rising Stars Academy. The Rising Stars Academy will house the new elementary school for the three neighborhoods next year and maybe also 2018-19. By the 2019-20 school year the school will need a new building. If CPS takes back the CCAC building, CPS would owe the CCAC money that has been invested in renovations and improvements. Leslie's concerns about CPS using the CCAC building for the school include parking and traffic issues in the neighborhood, as well as the lack of a playground, gym, and cafeteria in the building. She would like for everyone to work together to try to come up with a solution.

Update on Clifton Market Funding: Eric Urbas, Cindy Oakenfull, Malcolm Montgomery, and Shaun McCance of the Executive Committee met with the law firm of Frost, Brown, Todd on February 24. At the meeting the lawyers stated there is no conflict of interest in referring the question of using CTM funds to support the Clifton Market to CTM members. Non-profit implications were that even though the Clifton Market opening a grocery may be aligned with CTM retail improvement part of mission statement, the IRS would likely view loaning/owning as an unrelated business activity. There is no hard limit set by law, but the rule of thumb would be to lend or purchase shares at no more than 10% of CTM's assets, and the unrelated business revenue rule would be no more than 35% of assets. Insofar as the fiduciary and security issue for the loan, the firm will likely recommend purchasing an asset the Clifton Market can use. The law firm needed to know value of plaza, and according to the auditor, it's worth \$50,00. CTM could make a loan, but would probably be better off buying an asset. Kevin Marsh made a motion to update the community regarding this situation. The motion carried.

Business Committee: Joyce Rich reported that the facade improvement program is moving forward. The city is getting a new engineer to reset the bronze plaques back into the Ludlow Avenue sidewalks. For the 2017 NBDIP grant, the CTM Business Committee decided to seek funds to improve the Plaza - lights flags, movable tables, and audio/visual. The grant application will seek funds for lighted, artistic crosswalks at four intersections to help with safety along Jefferson/Ludlow.

Joyce is working on Plaza programming, and asked for \$500 from CTM to fund these public events. Joyce made a motion to receive \$500 for Plaza programming. Motion passes.

Education Committee Update: Nicholas Hollan reported the Education Committee's mission has expanded from access to neighborhood schools to the initiation of a neighborhood elementary school. The Vine Street School will be the seed location of the neighborhood elementary school, but a permanent home will be needed. The Committee would like the CCAC to stay in their current location. The Education Committee's next steps are to create an advisory group and to work with entities in the neighborhood. Kevin Marsh will now be the liaison to the Fairview-Clifton German Language School and Nicholas Hollan is liaison to the new neighborhood elementary school. No one at this time will be acting as liaison to any of the other schools in the Clifton neighborhood.

Housing and Zoning: Christine Celsor met with the City to discuss the future of the Clifton Merchant's Lot. The City was unaware that the property was being sold. Christine said the City is open to having meetings with the Clifton Business and Professional Association (CBPA), CTM, and nearby neighbors to identify what kind of development would be optimal. The City has many resources available. She would like to encourage CBPA to work together on a vision process, and had a resolution to make this happen. Michael Moran asked if this is a plan specific to the Merchant's Lot, or if it would apply to the whole business district. Christine said it could start with the Merchant Lot, but then could use this for other issues. Joyce Rich and

Malcolm Montgomery would like for CTM to improve relations with CBPA. Malcolm Montgomery intends to set a meeting with CBPA President Lydia Stec to discuss this issue. Cindy Oakenfull believes working with the City could be helpful. Kevin Marsh would like to discuss this issue with Christine, as there were some previous discussions in which he was involved. Adam Balz did not believe CTM has ever been involved in CBPA members buying property before, and why this proposed purchase would be any different. Christine said that it is different because involves a parking lot that all businesses rely on for customer parking. Shaun McCance believes CTM should be involved. Malcolm Montgomery said the parking lot is a community resource and Clifton residents have no legal standing but an interest. Motion to table and get the proposal. Kevin Marsh believes CTM should have a meeting with the developer. Vote to table passes.

Golf Outing: There are two candidates for golf outing benefactor: 1. Helping fund a turf field behind Fairview-Clifton German Language School, and 2. Donating the money to SCPA. Kevin March has concerns regarding the turf field, in that he has never seen a construction project go on budget. He also believes the gold outing organizers should talk with the neighbors of the school.

Eric Urbas says a decision needs to be made soon so the gold outing organizers can identify sponsors and advertise for the golf outing.

Motion to approve the two candidates passes.

Resolution of Appreciation for Clifton Market: Malcolm Montgomery presented the following:

Whereas

a full-service grocery store provides an essential service to a neighborhood and is an important contributor to the vitality of its business district,

and yet Clifton tried to replace its failed IGA without success, and

whereas a group of volunteers stepped up to organize the concerted and successful effort to create a new grocery store to fill this critical need for the benefit of all; and

whereas, they established this new business as a cooperative association which is owned and operated by our friends and neighbors and so also strengthens the bonds of community while returning to it the profits;

Therefore, be it resolved that

Clifton Town Meeting hereby expresses its appreciation to all who gave of their time and resources, and especially to those who led the successful effort, that succeeded in bringing us our wonderful new full-service grocery store, the *Clifton Market*.

Kevin Marsh thinks CTM needs to thank all Clifton businesses, to be universally thankful. Motion to accept Resolution passes.

Community Q&A: Tamaya Dennard attended the meeting and announced she is running for City Council. She worked with PG Sittenfeld for a long time. She currently works for Design Impact, where she focuses on social justice issues. Ms. Dennard wants to help people in poverty and believes she can be a strong voice for people in need. She identifies herself as a Progressive Democrat.

Daniel Ames did not get his issue of the Spring Chronicle. He reported that the oldest house of worship in Clifton is Calvary Episcopal, established in 1856. Before then, the Archdiocese built a house on Lafayette. He likely had services in his house. In 1844, a school house was established at Lafayette and Clifton. Worship services were then held at the school house. Calvary Episcopal Church was built 1866-67, and in 1868 it opened for worship.

Tom Reece had a request from the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) to host their events at CRC when there is inclement weather. He is trying to make it possible for the Clifton Recreation Center to be a rain out location for the CSO concerts at Burnett Woods. He may make a proposal that CTM or some other organization to get funding to support measure. Malcolm Montgomery suggested calling the Groesbeck Fund. Rama Kasturi said she would contact them.

Trustee Announcements: Shaun McCance wants to know where the funds to support Clifton Plaza programming should be itemized in the budget. It will be placed under Plaza Events. Rama Kasturi reported a successful cleanup of Burnett Woods. Students from Clean Up Cincy have offered to clean up District 5's Headquarters.

Kevin Marsh announced the Clifton Library will have a Make a Vision Board event, March 11, 11am to 1pm. North Avondale and Spring Grove are interested in organizing a Mayoral Candidate Night at Cintas Center.

Christine Celsor reported that Bruegger's Bagels received their building permit for construction. Malcolm Montgomery had a meeting with Eve Bolton about a neighborhood school location, where they could look into: 1. explore leasing a space, 2. share space at UC, 3. get technical facility people to look at the technical requirements so they can be more helpful in finding a proper space.

Nicholas Hollan knows Tamaya Dennard well, and believes she would be a tremendous asset to Cincinnati as a City council member.

Seth Maney reported that the trees for Ludlow Avenue have been ordered.

Adam Balz: The first House Tour meeting should be scheduled soon. He would like to keep the current number of flower pots on Ludlow Avenue, but is going to shift the placement of some along the street. The pots will be replanted at the end of March.

Meeting adjourned 8:57pm.